

Thailand so that free and fair elections can be held.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISPOSAL AWARENESS DAY

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 539, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 539) designating May 24, 2010, as "Prescription Drug Disposal Awareness Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, today I submitted a resolution designating May 24, 2010, as "Prescription Drug Disposal Awareness Day." May 24 would be Timothy Michael Strain's birthday. Timmy, as his family called him, died last year when he was given two painkillers that had not been prescribed for him. Through their grief, his parents Bernie and Beverly Strain have taken up the cause of safe drug disposal to make sure what happened to their son does not happen to others.

In recent years, recreational prescription drug use has grown at an alarming rate. In 2008, approximately 15,200,000 Americans 12 years of age and older reported having taken a prescription drug that had not been prescribed to them for recreational purposes in the previous year. Our children are finding these drugs in our medicine cabinets and the results can be deadly.

Apart from the tragic impact on our children, the lack of a safe place to dispose of prescription drugs is harming the environment and infiltrating our water sources. Without a place to turn in prescription drugs people are washing them down the drain where they end up in our rivers and in our drinking water.

We must work to find a safe way to dispose of prescription drugs and help make sure that what happened to Timmy Strain does not happen to any other child. I thank Senator GRASSLEY and Senator KOHL for joining me in introducing this resolution and I encourage all my colleagues to work to ensure safe methods of prescription drug disposal are available in their States.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I am pleased to join my colleagues, Senator CASEY and Senator KOHL, in submitting a resolution to designate May 24, 2010 as the "Prescription Drug Disposal Awareness Day."

The abuse of prescription narcotics such as pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives is currently the fastest growing drug abuse trend in the country. According to the most recent National Survey of Drug Use and Health, NSDUH, nearly 7 million people have admitted to using controlled substances without a doctor's prescription. People between the ages of 12 and 25 are the most common group to abuse

these drugs. However, more and more people are dying because of this abuse. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that the unintentional deaths involving prescription narcotics increased 117 percent from the years 2001 to 2005. These are statistics that can no longer be ignored and tolerated.

Regretfully, we read about children dying as a result of prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse. An article from February 2009 in the Des Moines Register reports on the death of a 14-year-old Brody Middle School Student who was found dead at his home from an apparent overdose of prescription drugs. The same article reports that 85 percent of drug and alcohol overdoses at the children's emergency center at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines are from prescription or over-the-counter medicines.

Millions of Americans are prescribed controlled substances every year to treat a variety of symptoms due to injury, depression, insomnia, and other conditions. Many legitimate users of these drugs often do not finish their prescriptions. As a result, these drugs remain in the family medicine cabinet for months or years because people forget about them or do not know how to properly dispose of them. However, these drugs, when not properly used or administered, are just as addictive and deadly as street drugs like methamphetamine or cocaine.

According to the NSDUH, more than half of the people who abuse prescription narcotics reported that they obtained controlled substances from a friend or relative or from the family medicine cabinet. As a result, most community antidrug coalitions, public health officials, and law enforcement officials have been encouraging people within their communities to dispose of old or unused medications in an effort to combat this growing trend.

This is also why I have cosponsored the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010. This legislation will enable the Attorney General of the United States to issue guidelines to help States and communities establish prescription drug take-back programs. Current law makes efforts to establish these programs difficult and time consuming. However, efforts to get old and unwanted medicines out of the home have shown signs of great promise to be successful if widely adopted. For example, the town of Clinton, IA, has held an annual "Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet" day that has collected over 300 pounds of old or unwanted medicine from the community. This is medicine that will not fall into the hands of a child or stranger or cause potential harm to any user.

It is important that we encourage people to dispose of their old or unwanted medicines so that they will not fall into the wrong hands. This is why I am pleased to be submitting this resolution and why I encourage all my colleagues to join us in raising public awareness of this important issue.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The resolution (S. Res. 539) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 539

Whereas in 2008, pharmacies in the United States filled 3,649,468,866 retail drug prescriptions;

Whereas in 2008, approximately 15,200,000 Americans 12 years of age and older reported having taken a prescription drug that had not been prescribed to them for recreational purposes in the previous year;

Whereas in 2006, approximately 26,400 deaths occurred in the United States from an unintentional drug overdose;

Whereas prescription drugs are involved in more overdose deaths annually than illegal drugs;

Whereas in 2007 and 2008, 55.9 percent of individuals 12 years of age and older who used pain relievers nonmedically in the past year had obtained the pain relievers from a friend or relative for free;

Whereas in 2007 and 2008, of the individuals 12 years of age and older who obtained non-medical pain relievers from a friend or relative for free—

(1) 81.7 percent indicated that the friend or relative had obtained the drugs from just 1 doctor; and

(2) 1.6 percent reported that the friend or relative had bought the drugs from a drug dealer or other stranger;

Whereas the improper disposal of prescription drugs may result in chemicals contaminating the environment and water supply; and

Whereas collection programs may reduce the supply of unused, unwanted prescription drugs in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 24, 2010, as "Prescription Drug Disposal Awareness Day";

(2) recognizes the importance of prescription drug disposal programs to reduce the supply of unused, unwanted prescription drugs in the United States; and

(3) encourages each State to establish and promote a prescription drug collection program.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2010

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4899, the emergency supplemental appropriations bill; finally, I ask that the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly luncheons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:48 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 25, 2010, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAMES MICHAEL COLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE DAVID W. OGDEN, RESIGNED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. RAYMOND T. ODIERNO

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) SCOTT A. WEIKERT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) PATRICIA E. WOLFE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) DONALD R. GINTZIG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) STEVEN M. TALSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) LOTHROP S. LITTLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) GARRY J. BONELLI
REAR ADM. (LH) SCOTT E. SANDERS
REAR ADM. (LH) ROBERT O. WRAY, JR.